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Letter dated 7 April 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 6 April 2000, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex to the letter dated 7 April 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on Stabilization Force (SFOR) operations. I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lord **Robertson**

Appendix

Monthly report to the United Nations Security Council on SFOR operations

1. Over the reporting period (13 February to 12 March 2000), there were approximately 26,500 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all the NATO Allies and from 15 non-NATO countries. Stabilization Force (SFOR) troops continued to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations in the theatre by means of ground and air patrols. Operations across the SFOR area included area security, monitoring the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, monitoring the Entity Armed Forces (EAF), conducting weapons storage site inspections and providing support to the international organizations in the theatre.

2. SFOR troops continued to monitor compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998), which prohibits the transport of weapons into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by providing an intensified presence on the ground in order to enforce the embargo. No violations were reported.

3. SFOR also continued to monitor the movement of controlled petroleum products into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by establishing traffic control points. No violations were reported.

4. On 5 March, SFOR troops in Multi-National Division (MND) (South-West) detained a Bosnian Serb, Dragoljub Prcac, who had been indicted for war crimes by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Prcac was subsequently transported to The Hague.

5. In response to a request from the High Representative, and in accordance with the broadcasting ban imposed by the Independent Media Commission (IMC) in November 1999, SFOR troops supported IMC in re-configuring transmission sites used by the Croatian national television station Erotel. The re-configuration, which took place from 17 to 19 February, enabled selected transmission sites to transmit legal Federation television broadcasts.

6. The demilitarization of the Brcko district (MND(North)) was completed over the reporting period, following the Entity Armed Forces' full cooperation with the three main stages of the process: the disbanding of previously identified units was completed on 31 December 1999; the disposal of weapons was completed on 17 February 2000; and the relocation of all remaining units from the area was completed on 6 March. SFOR troops supported the process by providing security. On 8 March, Brcko was officially declared a district, and the Brcko Multi-Ethnic Police Force, the first joint institution in the Brcko district, became operational.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

7. Over the reporting period, the situation remained stable, with the Entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement. The farmers' demonstration in MND (South-East), which began on 20 October 1999, continued throughout the period, with up to 50 Bosniacs from Gorazde demonstrating for their right to work their land in Kopaci in the Republika Srpska. Following an initiative by the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the demonstration

was to disband on 14 March. However, the demonstrations continued, and there was also an explosion near Kopaci on 11 March, near a building housing Bosniac returnees. No injuries or damage were reported.

8. On 25 February, MND (North), the International Police Task Force (IPTF) discovered 40 boxes of ammunition in the open, including 120-mm and 82-mm mortar rounds and three M60P2 rifle grenades; the ownership of this cache is unknown. Following a request from IPTF, SFOR troops confiscated and subsequently destroyed the ammunition. Similarly, on 28 February, a large ammunition cache was discovered by border police near Bosanski Samac (MND (North)). Again, the ammunition was confiscated and subsequently destroyed by SFOR.

9. Over the reporting period, there were several isolated incidents of violence, mainly related to the return of refugees and displaced persons. On 5 March in Bosanski Novi (MND (South-West)), a grenade injured a Bosniac returnee. In Janja (MND(North)); on 9 March, a grenade was thrown into the home of a Bosniac returnee, the fifth explosion in Janja since 26 February. On 6 March there were two incidents in Brcko. In the first, approximately 30 small arms rounds were fired at a house occupied by a Bosniac and a Bosnian Serb. In the second, an explosion occurred in front of a Bosniac house. Neither incident resulted in injury. On 12 March, the IPTF reported an explosion in a shop belonging to a Bosniac in Prnjavor (MND(South-West)), There were no injuries, but the building was extensively damaged.

10. Over the period, SFOR troops conducted 376 military weapons storage site inspections. No violations were reported.

11. SFOR monitored 548 training and movement activities: 119 Bosniac; 38 Bosnian Croat; 311 Bosnian Serb; and 80 Federation. The training and movement ban on the Republika Srpska Police Anti-Terrorist Brigade remains in force until further notice, as does the ban on elements of the 3rd Bosnian Serb Army Corps.

12. There were two unauthorized checkpoints established by local police in Buna and Bokulja (MND(South-East)) during the reporting period. Both were dismantled by IPTF.

Cooperation with international organizations

13. Within capabilities, and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in the theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), IPTF, the International Tribunal on the Former Yugoslavia, OHR, OSCE, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

14. Over the period, SFOR responded to requests from UNHCR to support minority returnees and refugees. During the month of February, 2,450 minority returns were reported, and SFOR monitored 4,163 house cleanings and assessment visits during this period. SFOR Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Task Force teams are currently assessing house and infrastructure reconstruction projects.

15. Municipal elections throughout Bosnia, with the exception of Brcko, will take place on 8 April, with SFOR providing support to preserve safety and security

16. There was no meeting of the Standing Committee on Military Matters (SCMM) over the reporting period, since the meeting planned for 9 March had to be postponed because of a state visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina taking place at the same time.

Outlook

17. Isolated incidents of violence can be expected to continue, and may increase as the municipal elections approach.